

Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2018

1. **Call to order**

Dr. Voiron called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the TCAC at 9:05 am on March 29, 2018 in 1-155 North Dakota Room.

2. **Roll call**

The following members were present: Mr. David Beard, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Rhea Kiper, Ms. Karen Parrino, Dr. Verjanis Peoples, Dr. Louis Voiron, and Mr. Rick Wentzel. Representing the Department of Education were Edmond Adams, Rachel Normand, Sara Strickland and Paula Tonguis.

3. **Appellants in attendance**

Monica Aucoin, Tansha Dangerfield, Kayce Domingue, Babette Foster, Curtis Green, Julie Hartman, Amelia Hebert, Kynsi Hebert, Jeffrey Holcomb, Georgia Jenkins, Elizabeth McArthur, Jerry Molaison, Sandi Moreau, Kimberly Shelton, Elizabeth Swinney and Terri Webb.

4. **Actions**

- A. The Council discussed recommendations for identifying a chair and co-chair to serve on this newly identified council. It was decided by a unanimous vote of the Council that Dr. Louis Voiron would continue his role as chair, with Mr. Rick Wentzel serving as co-chair. TCAC also noted that the Louisiana Federation of Teachers (LFT) representative, Carmen Minor, stepped down and LFT is nominating another representative.
- B. On the motion of Mr. Rick Wentzel, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Neomia Branson, Korey Coppage, Hanna Doty, Babette Foster, Ke'Alana Veal, and Helen White** one-time, one-year renewals of their Temporary-Authority-to-Teach (TAT) authorizations based on their attempts to pass the exams needed to be admitted into a teacher preparation program, evidence that they are teaching in demonstrated shortage areas, evidence that they met the standards of effectiveness, and verification that the employing districts recommend the appellants and will continue to employ them in the upcoming school year.
- C. On the motion of Mr. Rick Wentzel, seconded by Ms. Karen Parrino, **Kim Hamilton's** appeal was deferred to the July 26, 2018 meeting. Council requested documentation relative to workforce needs as evidence that the teacher is teaching in a demonstrated shortage area.

- D. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Lynn Edmiston, Kynsi Hebert, Lacy Johnson, Elizabeth McArthur, Tammy Reyna, and Hailey Stuart** one-year extensions on each of their Out-of-State (OS) certificates to permit time for their successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- E. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. Rick Wentzel, the Council granted **Linda Bazan and Sandi Moreau** one-year extensions of their Out-of-State (OS) certificates to permit time for them to meet Praxis exclusion with a successful year of teaching on the OS in conjunction with their successful teaching experience in other states prior to the issuance of their OS certificates.
- F. On the motion of Mr. Rick Wentzel, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Elizabeth Swinney** a one-year extension on her Out-of-Field Authority to Teach (OFAT) in the area of elementary 1-5 while she completes the coursework and exams required to add on the endorsement to her standard teaching certificate
- G. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Kimberly Shelton** the issuance of the Practitioner License (PL2) certificate based on documentation indicating her enrolling into a certification-only alternative teacher preparation program after having exhausted her years on a PL3 while pursuing certification through the master's program.
- H. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Ms. Karen Parrino, the Council granted **Amelia Hebert** a three-year extension of her Level 1 teaching certificate to permit her time to be evaluated for effectiveness while teaching in her area(s) of certification in order to move to the Level 2 certificate.
- I. On the motion of Ms. Karen Parrino, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Jerry Molaison's** request to add on academically gifted by substituting his other coursework related to technology and his work experience with educational technology for the three semester hour graduate course in educational technology required for the endorsement.
- J. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Dr. Christine Hypolite, the Council granted **Julie Hartman** the provisional educational diagnostician add-on endorsement while she fulfills the final three semester hour course in *Educational Diagnosis* required for add-on with her fully completing all coursework and other certification requirements.
- K. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council denied **Monica Aucoin's** request to add-on mild/moderate 1-5 due to her being deficient nine semester hours of the required coursework. The Council did grant a waiver for the three semester course in *Instructional Practices in Special Education* based on her experience teaching special education.

- L. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Dr. Rhea Kiper, the Council granted **Demetrius Hamner's** request to substitute the three semester hour EDM 310 *Micro Computing Systems* course for the required three semester hour *Educational Technology* requirement on the for mild/moderate 1-5 add-on guidelines based upon course content and work experiences.
- M. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Mr. Rick Wentzel, the Council granted **Betty West** the visually impaired add-on endorsement by substituting special education Praxis exam #0350 successfully completed in 2002 for the required special education Praxis exam #5354 as she has extensive work experience in special education and has fulfilled all other add-on requirements for visually impaired.
- N. On the motion of Mr. Rick Wentzel, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Terri Webb** a one-year extension on her Out-of-State Principal (OSP1) certificate to allow time for her to be evaluated an additional year as an effective leader which would result in her being eligible for the Educational Leader 2 (EDL2) certificate.
- O. On the motion of Ms. Karen Parrino, seconded by Dr. Christine Hypolite, the Council granted **Jeffrey Holcomb** the educational leader 1 eligibility letter substituting his M.B.A. for the required master's degree in education within the guidelines for educational leader 1 alternate pathway 2 based upon his fulfilling the other requirements and work experience in education.
- P. On the motion of Mr. Rick Wentzel, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Curt Green** the educational leader 3 eligibility letter substituting his post-secondary teaching experience for the deficient two years K-12 teaching experience required within the guidelines for issuance of the educational leader 3 certificate as he has met all other certification requirements.
- Q. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Dr. Rhea Kiper, the Council granted **Tansha Dangerfield** and **Kayce Domingue** and ancillary school counselor certification under the adopted guidelines which expired June 30, 2017 based upon their fulfilling all required coursework prior to the deadline, but were awaiting the conferral of their master's degrees which occurred in December 2017.
- R. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Georgia Jenkins** the ancillary qualified speech pathologist certificate based upon her professional license to practice issued by the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology which was earned prior to the change in policy requiring a master's degree.

5. The Council discussed and voted on the below suggested policy changes related to the Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificates.
 - Allow for the renewal of a TAT for a period of one year at the request of the employing LEA and based on appeal criteria for TAT renewal as approved by BESE in April 2017; limiting renewal to two such extensions;
 - Permit TCAC to consider appeals for TAT renewal declinations;
 - Allow TAT applicants with a graduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university to waive the required PRAXIS Core Academic Skills test, as is current policy for the Practitioner's License; and
 - Allow for an adjusted GPA for the issuance of an initial TAT certificate, as is the case for the Practitioner License

BESE will be asked to consider recommendations relative to TAT policy at the June 2018 meeting.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 P.M.